

MEDIC RESCUE'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, on September 12th, I will have the honor of paying tribute to some of my district's most vital heroes in a ceremony commemorating Medic Rescue's 25 years of service. The professionals of Medic Rescue, based in Bridgewater, PA provided life-sustaining medical services and emergency transport to more than 40,000 citizens in my district last year.

In addition to commending their commitment to service, the staff of Medic Rescue should also be praised for their efforts, through various community service programs, to reach out to children, seniors, and the disabled.

The times we live in pose never-before-conceived-of threats to our citizens. It is reassuring to know that my constituents can benefit from this enduring team of first-responders who have a commitment to their patients and their community.

I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking these brave men and women for their professionalism, their ability to work under pressure, and their effectiveness in carrying out their critical mission.

A TRIBUTE TO GARY CARTER: A NATIONAL BASEBALL GREAT

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Gary Carter on his induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. On Sunday, July 27, 2003 Gary became the 14th catcher to be enshrined into the 256-member club.

Mr. Speaker, Gary brings with his induction a phenomenal record of talent and service.

After being selected in the third round of the 1972 free agent draft by the Montreal Expos, Gary made the Major League Baseball (MLB) club in 1974. A year later, he was selected as an All-Star and named the Sporting News National League Rookie of the Year. From there, "The Kid"—the nickname he acquired because of his ever-present smile and youthful passion for the game—led the Expos to their first, and so far only, playoff appearance in 1981.

In 1985, he was traded to the New York Mets. That year, he proved a steady hand in leading a young Mets team to a second-place finish. However, it was the following year—1986—that proved to be the crowning achievement in Gary Carter's illustrious career. That was the year the Mets rocketed to the top of the National League East, capturing the division title and eventually the World Series Championship over the Boston Red Sox.

Gary remained the Mets' catcher through 1989. After single-seasons with the San Francisco Giants and then the Los Angeles Dodgers, he returned in 1992 to the team that gave him his first shot in the majors—the Expos—

where he finished his star-studded, 19-year career.

After retirement, Gary continued to work in the game as a broadcaster for the Florida Marlins and the Montreal Expos. In 2002, he was named a minor league catching instructor for the New York Mets.

What has always impressed me the most about Gary is not only his on-field accomplishments, but his steadfast commitment to his community in Florida. Gary has been a key player in helping to raise more than \$6 million for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society by hosting golf tournaments at various Palm Beach County courses. The Gary Carter Foundation based in West Palm Beach has been instrumental in having thousands of dollars in computers, software and books donated to Palm Beach County schools as well as gifts to local children who make strides in the "Reading Counts" program.

For all of his wonderful contributions both to baseball and to our community, I want to offer this tribute in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to our friend, a community leader and Hall of Famer—Gary Carter.

TRIBUTE TO JACK WILKINSON ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jack Wilkinson, retired teacher in Leavy County.

On Sunday, August 24, Mr. Wilkinson celebrated his 90th birthday. As the son of a pioneering family who moved to the area in the 1840s, Mr. Wilkinson spent most of his years in Leavy County. As a child, he helped his parents on their farm. The neighborhood school he attended, Union School, was one room with grades 1–6 and was used as a church on the weekends. He went on to earn his teaching certificate from the University of Florida, which only enrolled 4,000 students at the time, and is proud to say he saw the very first football game played in "the swamp." Mr. Wilkinson then returned to his hometown of Chiefland, where he lives today. After dedicating half of his life to teaching math and helping students at the very high school he attended, Chiefland High School, Mr. Wilkinson quietly retired to his farm.

I commend Mr. Wilkinson for the teaching services he provided and the 90 years he has given his community.

HEALTHCARE BILL OF RIGHTS FOR ALL AMERICANS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, during the recess, I was pleased to meet with a group of representatives of The United Steel Workers in my district. They presented me with a petition with which I am in strong agreement—calling on those of us who serve in Congress "to pledge their support for the

Healthcare Bill of Rights in its entirety." In particular, this petition cited the importance of three key principles, which are: First, everyone has a right to quality healthcare, regardless of financial standing. The government must insure that no American is denied needed healthcare services because of inability to pay; second, healthcare should be affordable for all who need it. The government must see that healthcare costs are brought under control; and third, everyone has a right to affordable prescription drugs. The government must insure that every American has prescription drug coverage. No one should be forced to choose whether or not to buy needed prescribed medicine based on how much money they have.

Mr. Speaker, I will not enter here the long list of names of signers of this petition. But I believe that Members should be aware of the strong sentiment that exists on behalf of such an important public policy. And I salute the Steel Workers of America and those who have taken the lead in organizing this petition in my own district and elsewhere, for their commitment to a better America.

TRIBUTE TO THE 98TH BOMBARDMENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group whose sacrifices, patriotism, and contributions to our country are immeasurable. I am honored that the 98th Bombardment Veterans Association will be having their annual reunion in my congressional district this year. Their distinguished history is one of duty, honor, courage and sacrifice.

The 98th Bombardment Group was constituted on January 28, 1942, at Barksdale Field, Louisiana. They were activated on February 3, 1942, at McDill Field, Florida with B-24 Liberator Bombers and continued their training at Ft. Myers and Drane Field, Florida.

On July 15, 1942, the 98th was alerted and departed for the Middle East, arriving in Palestine in late July. The 98th was initially assigned to the United States Middle East Air Force. They flew their first mission to Mersa Metruh on August 1, 1942.

One of their most famous missions was on August 1, 1943 when 47 B-24s launched for a low-level raid to Ploesti and only 21 returned safely. The Group Commander, Colonel John R. Kane was awarded the Medal of Honor for his leadership. On another raid on Ploesti on July 9, 1944, Lieutenant Donald Pucket sacrificed his life trying to save three of his crewmembers who could not or would not bail out of their aircraft. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his sacrifice.

The 98th continued the campaign against Nazi forces during the rest of World War II, flying a total of 417 missions and earning a total of 15 battle streamers as well as two Presidential Citations. The 98th returned to the U.S. in April of 1945 and was re-designated the 98th Bombardment Group.

In 1950, with the beginning of the Korean Conflict, the 98th arrived at Yokota Air Base, Japan and flew their first mission to Korea on